BHS Policies and Procedures



City and County of San Francisco Department of Public Health San Francisco Health Network BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES 1380 Howard Street, 5th Floor San Francisco, CA 94103 (415) 255-3400 FAX (415) 255-3567

Policy or Procedure Title: Level of Care Designations/Certifications for AOD Treatment Facilities

Issued By:

Maximilian Rocha, LCSW Director of Systems of Care

Date: December 19, 2022

Docusigned by:

Maximilian Rocha

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Manual Number: 2.01-4

References: BHIN 21-01; Health

and Safety Code (HSC) Section

11834.015

New Policy

Equity Statement: The San Francisco Department of Public Health, Behavioral Health Services (BHS) is committed to leading with race and prioritizing Intersectionality, including sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, class, nationality, language, and ability. BHS strives to move forward on the continuum of becoming an anti-racist institution through dismantling racism, building solidarity among racial groups, and working towards becoming a Trauma-Informed/Trauma Healing Organization in partnership with staff, clients, communities, and our contractors. We are committed to ensuring that every policy or procedure, developed and implemented, leads with an equity and anti-racist lens. Our policies will provide the highest quality of care for our diverse clients. We are dedicated to ensuring that our providers are equipped to provide services that are responsive to our clients' needs and lived experiences.

Purpose:

To issue requirements for all licensed adult alcohol or other drug recovery or treatment (AOD) facilities to obtain a designation based on the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) treatment criteria, or an equivalent evidence-based standard, as a minimum standard of care.

Scope:

This policy applies to all licensed adult alcohol or other drug recovery or treatment (AOD) facilities.

Policy:

In accordance with HSC Section 11834.015, DHCS adopted the ASAM treatment criteria as the minimum standard of care for licensed AOD facilities. All licensed AOD facilities shall obtain at least one DHCS LOC (level of care) Designation and/or at least one residential ASAM LOC Certification consistent with all of its program services. If an AOD facility opts to obtain an ASAM LOC Certification, then that facility will not be required to obtain a DHCS LOC Designation. However, nothing precludes a facility from obtaining both a DHCS LOC Designation and ASAM LOC Certification.

To obtain a DHCS LOC Designation, a licensed AOD (alcohol and other drugs) facility shall submit to DHCS a DHCS LOC Designation Application and the required supporting documentation, demonstrating the facility's ability to comply with the requirements identified in Exhibit A. For a process overview of documentation required for DHCS LOC Designation, see Exhibit B.

The DHCS LOC Designations are not equivalent to or affiliated with the ASAM LOC Certifications developed by ASAM. An approval for a DHCS LOC Designation does not guarantee eligibility for an ASAM LOC Certification. However, an approved residential ASAM LOC Certification is sufficient to meet the DHCS requirement. Licensees must directly contact ASAM to obtain information regarding its certification process and requirements or to obtain ASAM LOC Certification.

Procedure:

Process for Obtaining a DHCS LOC Designation:

Applicants for an Initial License:

As of February 1, 2021, all initial applicants for AOD licensure shall submit a DHCS LOC Designation Application (DHCS 4022) and required supporting documentation concurrently with the Initial Treatment Provider Application (DHCS 6002) to DHCS. Applicants approved by DHCS will be granted DHCS Provisional LOC Designations until on-site or virtual compliance reviews are completed.

Licensed Facilities With DHCS Provisional LOC Designation(s):

Licensed AOD facilities with: 1) a current DHCS Provisional LOC Designation(s) that are not seeking a change in designation(s) nor adding additional designation(s) and, 2) are not approved by DHCS for detoxification services, nor pending approval by DHCS for detoxification services, shall submit only a Current Provider LOC Attestation Statement (DHCS 4031) to DHCS no later than November 30, 2021.

Licensed AOD facilities with a provisional DHCS LOC designation for Level(s) 3.1, 3.3, and/or 3.5 that are approved by DHCS for detoxification services, or pending approval by DHCS for detoxification services, are required to apply for DHCS Level 3.2 – Clinically Managed Residential Withdrawal Management 3, and shall submit a DHCS LOC Designation Application (DHCS 4022) and required supporting documents to DHCS no later than December 31, 2021.

Licensed AOD facilities with current DHCS Provisional LOC Designation(s) seeking a change in designation(s) or adding additional designation(s) shall submit a DHCS LOC Designation Application (DHCS 4022) and required supporting documents to DHCS prior to providing the new LOC services. The AOD facility shall not provide the new LOC services until the facility receives DHCS approval for that LOC.

Licensed Facilities Without DHCS Provisional LOC Designation(s):

Licensed AOD facilities without a DHCS Provisional LOC Designation shall submit a DHCS LOC Designation Application (DHCS 4022) and required supporting documents to DHCS no later than December 31, 2021.

Required Supporting Documentation

In addition to the DHCS LOC Designation Application (DHCS 4022), licensed AOD facilities shall submit the following supporting documentation to DHCS:

• Facility Staffing Data (DHCS 5050), including all facility staff providing direct client services and/or overseeing the program

- Detailed Monthly Program Staff Schedule
- Weekly Activities Schedule (DHCS 5086)
- Detailed Weekly Program Activities Schedule
- Program's Level of Care Assessment for Residents

DHCS LOC Designation Application and Review Process

DHCS will review the DHCS LOC Designation Application and related documentation according to the following guidelines and timeline:

- DHCS will review the documents, determine compliance, and notify the AOD facility whether the application is complete or incomplete. Notification of an incomplete application shall specify the missing information and/or documentation.
- The AOD facility shall have 60 calendar days from the date of the notification of an incomplete application to submit the missing information and/or documentation.
- If the application has been determined to be complete and in accordance with submission requirements, DHCS shall issue a revised license reflecting a DHCS Provisional LOC Designation(s).
- All DHCS LOC Designation(s) shall remain provisional until DHCS has completed an on-site or virtual compliance review of the AOD facility.
- The compliance review will validate the ability of the AOD facility to comply with the requirements specified in this BHIN. DHCS may interview clients and/or program staff in private and inspect relevant program records. At the completion of the compliance review, DHCS may conduct an exit interview with the program director or his/her designee to discuss any deficiencies noted. DHCS shall provide a written license report specifying deficiencies to the program director or his/her designee by mail within 10 working days of the completion of the compliance review. The report shall require the AOD facility to correct deficiencies and submit a written verification to DHCS within 30 calendar days of the date of the license report unless DHCS determines, based on the review, that the deficiency jeopardizes the health and safety of clients and requires correction within a shorter period of time. Once deficiencies are corrected, DHCS shall notify the AOD facility of the approval of the written verification in writing by first class mail. DHCS shall issue a revised license reflecting the removal of the provisional status.
- The DHCS website will be updated to reflect each licensed AOD facility's DHCS LOC Designation(s).
- Failure to submit a DHCS LOC Designation Application and supporting documentation by the applicable date in this BHIN, or failing to provide requested missing information within 60 calendar days, shall subject a licensed AOD facility to disciplinary action, as described below.

In the event an AOD facility ceases providing any of the approved DHCS LOC Designation services, the AOD facility shall provide DHCS a written notification within 10 working days of that occurrence.

Process for Notifying DHCS of ASAM Level of Care Certification Applicants for an Initial License:

Beginning February 1, 2021, all initial applicants for AOD licensure opting to obtain an ASAM Level of Care Certification shall submit to DHCS an Initial Treatment Provider Application (DHCS 6002), New Provider LOC Attestation Statement (DHCS 4030), and either 1) a copy of its ASAM LOC Certification, or 2) documentation demonstrating that it has applied for an ASAM Level of Care Certification. opt to obtain an ASAM Level of Care Certification 4 instead of a DHCS LOC designation of 3.1, 3.3, or 3.5, are still required to apply for DHCS Level 3.2 -Clinically Managed Residential Withdrawal Management, and shall submit to DHCS:

An Initial Treatment Provider Application (DHCS 6002);

- A New Provider LOC Attestation Statement (DHCS 4030);
- A DHCS LOC Designation Application (DHCS 4022) and required supporting documents for DHCS Level 3.2
- Clinically Managed Residential Withdrawal Management and required supporting documents; and
- Either 1) a copy of its ASAM LOC Certification, or 2) documentation demonstrating that it has applied for an ASAM Level of Care Certification.

If at any time the facility makes changes to its application for an ASAM LOC Certification, the facility shall notify DHCS of that change within 10 working days of submission to ASAM. In that notice, the facility shall include a copy of the updated application for ASAM LOC Certification.

Licensed Facilities:

Licensed AOD facilities that opt to obtain an ASAM LOC Certification 5 and are approved by DHCS for detoxification services, or pending approval by DHCS for detoxification services shall submit the following to DHCS no later than December 31, 2021:

- A DHCS LOC Designation Application (DHCS 4022) and required supporting documents for DHCS LOC 3.2 Clinically Managed Residential Withdrawal Management and required supporting documents; and,
- Either 1) a copy of its ASAM LOC Certification or 2) documentation demonstrating that it has applied for an ASAM LOC

Licensed AOD facilities that opt to obtain an ASAM LOC Certification in lieu of a DHCS LOC Designation and are not approved by DHCS for detoxification services, or pending approval by DHCS for detoxification services, shall submit to DHCS a Current Provider LOC Attestation Statement (DHCS 4031) and either 1) a copy of its ASAM LOC Certification or 2) documentation demonstrating that it has applied for an ASAM LOC no later than December 31, 2021.

Process for Notifying DHCS of ASAM Level of Care Certification Actions

Licensed AOD facilities shall submit a copy of all ASAM LOC Certification approvals or denials within ten (10) working days of receiving them. If at any point in time ASAM/CARF takes action on a licensed AOD facility's ASAM Level of Care Certification (e.g., a citation, corrective action plan, suspension, or revocation), then the facility must notify DHCS of that action within 10 working days of receiving notice of that action. In that notice, the AOD facility shall include all documentation provided by ASAM/CARF supporting the certification action. If an AOD facility's ASAM Level of Care Certification is suspended or revoked, then the facility shall immediately cease providing that level of care at its facility and may not resume providing that level of care until its ASAM Level of Care Certification is reinstated, or it has obtained a DHCS LOC Designation.

Compliance

In accordance with HSC Section 11834.015, all licensed AOD facilities shall comply with BHIN 2021-01 until DHCS adopts formal regulations. Licensed AOD facilities must only provide services within the scope of their license and, once received, their DHCS LOC Designation, DHCS Provisional LOC Designation, or ASAM LOC Certification. DHCS will ensure compliance with BHIN 21-01 as a part of its licensing compliance reviews authorized by HSC Section 11834.01(c). Pursuant to HSC Section 11834.36, any licensed AOD facility that fails to adhere with the requirements set forth in this BHIN may be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, license suspension or revocation.

DHCS requires both initial applicants and currently licensed adult alcohol or other drug recovery or treatment (AOD) facilities that are approved, or pending approval, by DHCS to provide detoxification services to apply for DHCS Level 3.2 – Clinically Managed Residential Withdrawal Management (WM), and to submit a DHCS LOC Designation Application (DHCS 4022) and required supporting documents: The Process for Obtaining a DHCS Level of Care (LOC) Designation; and Process for Notifying DHCS of ASAM Level of Care Certification.

The Program Components section of Exhibit A has been amended to monitor vital signs at least once every 6 hours during the first 72 hours following admission for residents receiving detoxification services. Additionally, this section has been amended to allow personnel trained in detoxification services to make the determination of discontinuing or reducing the physical checks and monitoring of vital signs 24 hours following resident admission.

The Personnel Requirements section of Exhibit A has been amended to clarify the 1:15 staff to resident ratio for residents receiving detoxification services and include a requirement for naloxone training. In addition, this section has been amended to require WM personnel training to be implemented and maintained by the licensee for facilities with a DHCS LOC 3.2-WM designation.

The Level of Care Assessments section of Exhibit A has been amended to identify the type of individuals that may conduct the multidimensional assessment when a Licensed Practitioner of the Healing Arts (LPHA) makes the final determination of care. Additionally, this section has been amended to include an exception for residents receiving detoxification services upon admission to complete a pre-assessment rather than a full multidimensional assessment.

The Treatment and Recovery Plans and Treatment and Recovery Services Documentation sections of Exhibit A have been amended to include exemptions for residents during the detoxification phase of treatment.

The DHCS Level of Care Designation Definitions section of Exhibit A has been amended to include interns registered with the California Board of Psychology or the California Board of Behavioral Sciences under the LPHA Non-Physician category.

The accompanying Exhibit B Flow Chart has been amended to reflect the requirement for facilities currently approved or pending approval for residential detoxification services, by DHCS, to submit an application (DHCS 4022) for a DHCS LOC 3.2- Clinically Managed Residential Withdrawal Management designation.

Contact Person: AOD Administrator

Attachment(s):

Exhibit A - DHCS Level of Care Designation Requirements

Exhibit B - Required Documentation for DHCS Level of Care Designation Flow Chart

Distribution:

BHS Policies and Procedure are distributed by the BHS Quality Management Office of Regulatory Affairs.

Administrative Manual Holders BHS Programs SOC Program Managers BOCC Program Managers CDTA Program Managers

	DHCS Level of Care Designation Requirements				
DHCS Level of Care	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.2	
Service Name	Clinically Managed Low-Intensity Residential Services	Clinically Managed Population-Specific High-Intensity Residential Services	Clinically Managed High- Intensity Residential Services	Clinically Managed Residential Withdrawal Management (WM)	
Description of Care	24-hour structure with trained and credentialed personnel providing clinically directed program activities and professionally directed treatments to stabilize and maintain substance use disorder (SUD) symptoms, develop and apply recovery skills, and preparation for outpatient treatment	24-hour care with trained and credentialed personnel providing clinical directed, less intense program activities and professional directed treatments to stabilize and maintain SUD symptoms and to develop and apply recovery skills specific for individuals with cognitive or other functioning impairments	24-hour care with trained and credentialed personnel providing clinical directed program activities and professionally directed treatments to stabilize and maintain SUD symptoms, develop and apply recovery skills specific for individuals with co-occurring mental health disorders	24-hour structure and support with trained and credentialed personnel providing organized services in a social setting emphasizing on peer support for individuals with moderate risk of withdrawal	

	DHCS Level of Care Designation Requirements				
DHCS Level of Care	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.2	
Program Components ¹	A minimum of 5 hours per week of individual counseling, group, and education sessions and/or structured therapeutic activities.	A minimum of 5 hours per week of individual, group, and education sessions and/or structured therapeutic activities specific for individuals with cognitive or other functioning impairments.	A minimum of 5 hours per week of individual, group, and education sessions and/or structured therapeutic activities specific for individuals with co-occurring mental health disorders.	DHCS approval to provide detoxification services. Personnel trained in providing detoxification services perform close observation and face-to-face physical checks at least every 30 minutes and monitor vital signs at least once every 6 hours during the first 72 hours following admission. Documentation of observations and checks must be recorded in the resident's file and signed by the trained personnel. (Updated 8/20/21) Physical checks and monitoring of vital signs may be discontinued or reduced after 24 hours following admission	

DHCS Level of Care Designation Requirements				
DHCS Level of Care	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.2
Program Components (continued)				based upon a determination by personnel trained in providing detoxification services. Documentation supporting the modified frequency of physical checks and monitoring of vital signs shall be recorded in a resident's file. (Updated 8/20/21)

DHCS Level of Care Designation Requirements				
DHCS Level of Care	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.2
Minimum Service Components	 Clinically-managed treatment to facilitate recovery skills, relapse prevention and emotional coping strategies Arrangements for addiction pharmacotherapy and drug screening Motivational enhancement and engagement strategies Daily monitoring of residents' medication adherence Recovery services Arrangements of services for resident's family and significant others, as appropriate to 	 Clinically-managed treatment to facilitate recovery skills, relapse prevention, and emotional coping strategies Arrangements for addiction pharmacotherapy and drug screening Range of cognitive and behavioral therapies administered in individual and group settings Arrangements for recreational therapy, art, music, physical therapy, and/or vocational rehabilitation Motivational enhancement and engagement strategies 	 Clinically-managed treatment to facilitate recovery skills, relapse prevention, and emotional coping strategies Arrangements for addiction pharmacotherapy and drug screening Range of cognitive and behavioral therapies administered in individual and group settings Arrangements for recreational therapy, art, music, physical therapy, and/or vocational rehabilitation Motivational enhancement and engagement strategies Regular monitoring of adherence to 	 Range of cognitive and behavioral therapies administered on an individual and group settings, depending on the resident's progress through WM Health education services Arrangements of services for resident's family and significant others, as appropriate to advance treatment goals and objectives

	DHCS Level of Care Designation Requirements				
DHCS Level of Care	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.2	
Minimum Service Components (continued)	advance treatment goals and objectives • Education on benefits of medication assisted treatment (MAT) and arrange for referral to treatment as necessary	 Regular monitoring of resident's medication adherence Recovery services Arrangements of services for resident's family and significant others, as appropriate to advance treatment goals and objectives Education on benefits of MAT and referral to treatment as necessary 	resident's prescribed medication and over- the-counter medications and supplements • Daily scheduled professional services and interdisciplinary assessments and treatment designed to develop and apply recovery skills • Recovery services • Arrangements of services for resident's family and significant others, as appropriate to advance treatment goals and objectives • Education on benefits of MAT and referral to treatment as necessary		

	DHCS Level of Care Designation Requirements				
DHCS Level of Care	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.2	
Personnel Requirements ²	 California State scop Professional staff, in to all requirements in Non-professional states assigned duties. Non-professional states assigned professional states are clinical, professional necessary training a Clinical and/or profe 	be of practice statutes. Including registered and certion the California Code of Regard shall receive appropriate aff will be supervised by clinal and non-professional staff the time of hiring and throssional staff conducting lev	n-Physician, must provide solified alcohol and other drug gulations (CCR), Title 9, Characteristics on-site orientation and trainical, professional and/or adresser required to have work englout employment. The electric of care assessments, determinent services must consider the electric original and the	counselors, must adhere apter 8. ning prior to performing ministrative staff. experience and any ermining the appropriate	

DHCS Level of Care Designation Requirements					
DHCS Level of Care	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.2	
Personnel Requirements ² (continued)				Facility personnel who provide WM services or who monitor or supervise the provision of such service must meet additional training requirements ⁴ .	
Level of Care Assessments	 Dimension or Exploration Dimension tw Exploration Dimension th Exploration Dimension fo Exploration Dimension fix Exploration Dimension fix Exploration Dimension si <li< td=""><th>nent addressing all six (6 ne (1) – Acute intoxication of past and current expense (2) – Biomedical conditions of health history and curree (3) – Emotional, belon of thoughts, emotions, and (4) – Readiness to claim of readiness and interest (5) – Relapse, continuous (6) – Recovery/living (5)</th><th>navioral, or cognitive cond and mental health issues nange at in changing ued use, or continued prog ith relapse or continued use</th><td>d risks: ential nd withdrawal litions and complications gram potential or problems</td></li<>	nent addressing all six (6 ne (1) – Acute intoxication of past and current expense (2) – Biomedical conditions of health history and curree (3) – Emotional, belon of thoughts, emotions, and (4) – Readiness to claim of readiness and interest (5) – Relapse, continuous (6) – Recovery/living (5)	navioral, or cognitive cond and mental health issues nange at in changing ued use, or continued prog ith relapse or continued use	d risks: ential nd withdrawal litions and complications gram potential or problems	

DHCS Level of Care Designation Requirements					
DHCS Level of Care	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.2	
Level of Care Assessments (continued)	 admission by an LPHA. Howhen a LPHA reviews and a least and recognized by the meets all of the a A resident receiving deassessment, if comple detoxification services subsequent level of ca Resident referrals shall medically appropriate. 	owever, the following may of approves the assessment her drug counselor that is eigen Department of Health Capplicable California state of etoxification services upon a tion of a pre-assessment woccurs and there are continued where a full assessment	and completed within 72 hor conduct and complete the a and makes the final detern ther certified or registered by re Services and accredited qualifications. (Updated 8/2) admission is exempt from the rithin 72 hours following adrangency plans to transfer the exempt would be conducted. (Updated) emergent care and to another able for purchase.	nination of care: by an organization with the NCCA, and 0/21) The multidimensional mission for e resident to a lated 8/20/21)	

DHCS Level of Care Designation Requirements					
DHCS Level of Care	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.2	
Treatment and Recovery Plans	 A full treatment and/ocalendar days from the Consequence of Conseque	A resident receiving detoxification services in a facility is exempt from this requirement during the detoxification phase of treatment. (Updated 8/20/21)			
Treatment and Recovery Services Documentation	The following treatment a facility staff, in a reside the service: (a) Assessment; (b) Case management (c) Individual counsel (d) Group counseling (e) Education session (f) Treatment or recomposed include: (a) Type of service; (b) Start and end time (c) Topic of each educ (d) Name and title of	A resident receiving detoxification services in a facility is exempt from this requirement during the detoxification phase of treatment. (Updated 8/20/21)			

Legal Disclaimer: The DHCS LOC Designations are not equivalent to, or affiliated with the ASAM Level of Care Certifications developed by ASAM©, in partnership with CARF International.

EXHIBIT A 21-001

- ¹ If the adult alcoholism or drug abuse recovery or treatment (AOD) facility is both DHCS licensed and certified, the requirements of a minimum of 20 hours per week would take precedence in accordance to the DHCS Alcohol and/or Other Drug Program Certification Standards, regardless of whether the facility has obtained its LOC designation through ASAM or through DHCS.
- ² Additional requirements apply for licensed AOD facilities approved for Incidental Medical Services.
- ³ ASAM training opportunities are made available through a DHCS contract with the University of California, Los Angeles. Licensees may also contact ASAM directly for additional trainings.
- ⁴Additional training requirements for 3.2 WM include: (a) completing 6 hours of orientation training that covers the needs of residents who receive WM services for personnel providing WM services or monitoring or supervising the provision of these services; (b) repeating the orientation training within 14 calendar days of return if staff is returning to work after a break in employment of more than 180 consecutive calendar days; (c) on an annual basis, completing 8 hours of training that covers the needs of residents who receive WM services. Documentation of training must be maintained in personnel records. Personnel training shall be implemented and maintained by the licensee pursuant to the California Code of Regulations, Title 9, Section 10564(k). (Updated 8/20/21)

EXHIBIT A 21-001

DHCS Level of Care Designation Definitions

Administrative Staff: Under this provision, referred to a Facility Administrator or Program Director that must be designated by the entity to act on its behalf in the overall management and operation of the program.

Clinically Managed: Services directed by non-physician staff.

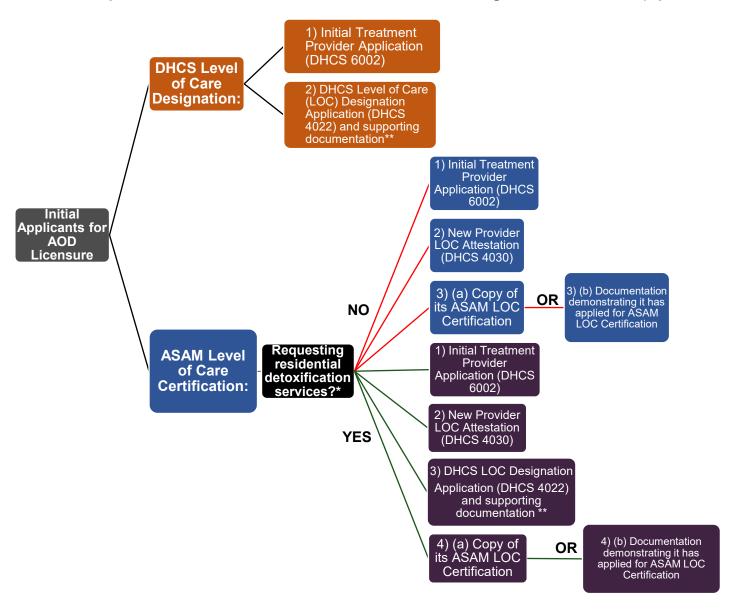
Counselors: As defined in CCR, Title 9, Section 13005(a)(2) or 13005(a)(8).

Licensed Practitioner of the Healing Arts (LPHA) Non-Physician: Professional staff must be licensed, registered, certified, or recognized under California State scope of practice statutes. Professional staff shall provide services within their individual scope of practice and receive supervision required under their scope of practice laws. Non-Physician LPHAs include: Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Registered Nurses, Registered Pharmacists, Licensed Clinical Psychologist (LCP), Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT), and interns registered with the California Board of Psychology or the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. (Updated 8/20/21)

LPHA Physician: Physicians are a sub-category of the LPHA definition and must be licensed, registered, certified, or recognized under California State scope of practice statutes. Physicians shall provide services within their individual scope of practice.

Withdrawal Management: An organized service delivered by trained personnel who provide 24-hour onsite supervision, observation, and support for residents who are intoxicated or experiencing withdrawal from SUDs.

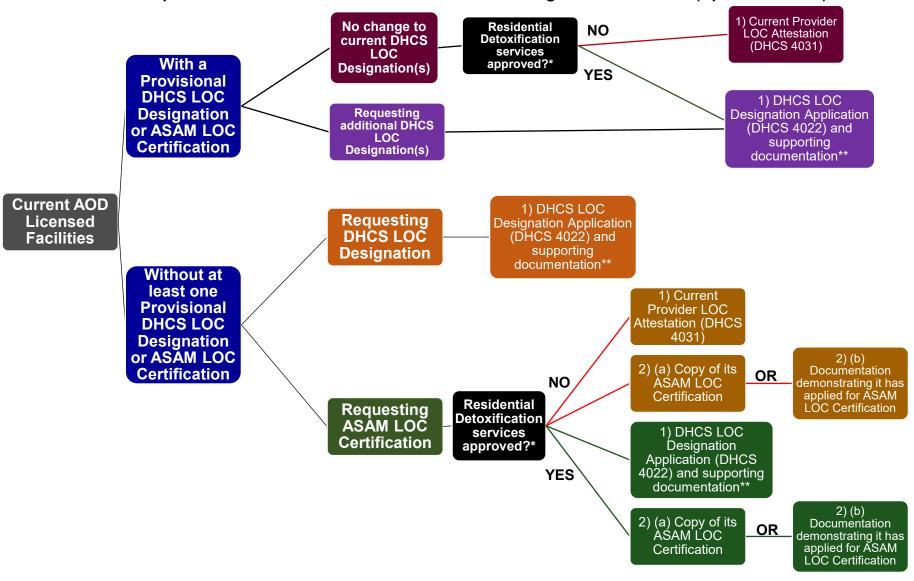
Required Documentation for DHCS Level of Care Designation Flow Chart (Updated 8/20/21)



^{*}Facilities requesting detoxification services or approved detoxification services will need to apply for DHCS LOC 3.2-Withdrawal Management.

^{**}Supporting documentation is detailed in this information notice, BHIN No.: 21-001 under "Required Supporting Documentation", Page 5.

Required Documentation for DHCS Level of Care Designation Flow Chart (Updated 8/20/21)



^{*}Facilities requesting detoxification services or approved detoxification services will need to apply for DHCS LOC 3.2-Withdrawal Management.

^{**}Supporting documentation is detailed in this information notice, BHIN No.: 21-001 under "Required Supporting Documentation", Page 5.